



# Two arrests after Xmas pub shooting

A MAN and a woman have been arrested in connection with the murder of a 26-year-old

murder of a 26-year-old who was shot at a Wirral pub on Christmas Eve. Beautician Elle Edwards died after being shot in the head at the Lighthouse in Wallasey Village. Police said a 30-year-old man has been arrested in Tranmere on suspicion of murder and attempted murder. A 19-year-old woman from Rock Ferry has been arrested on s

been arrested on

been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder, they added. Both suspects have been taken into custody and will be questioned by detectives. Four others who were at the pub were

also injured

also injured.
Tributes have been
laid at the scene,
including a note signed
"mum and dad" which
read: "To my beautiful
Elle, you are the light
of my life, you will
never be gone."

# Taiwan boosts military effort

TAIWAN will extend mandatory military service from four months to one year, President Tsai Ing-wen has said. The decision comes

amid growing tensions with China, which claims the self-ruled island as its

territory.
Speaking at a press
conference, President
Tsai announced new plans to bolster Taiwan's defence in the event of an attack from Beijing.

"Peace will not drop from the sky... Taiwan i on the frontline of authoritarian expansion,





ALMOST 60 people have died in death blizzards that have swept across the United States.
At least 28 people have perished in western New York State alone, most of them in the city of Buffalo, as a monster winter storm continues to batter North America.

A state official said some people had been apped in cars for more than two days during hat was "probably" the worst storm of their

Up to nine more inches (23cm) of snow are expected in parts of the state, meteorologists

warn. And metmen believe the hell blizzards may cross the Atlantic and hit the UK in a few days' time.

The storm stretching from Canada to the Mexican border has killed 56 people. It's thought that dozens more bodies will be found

once the huge drifts melt.

US President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration allowing federal support for New York State.

"My heart is with those who lost loved ones this holiday weekend," he tweeted. Mark

Poloncarz, the executive for Erie County where Buffalo is located, said: "We can see sort of the light at the end of the tunnel, but this is not the end yet."

"It's a generational storm," he said, warning that the county was yet to begin assessing the "full tull"

the "full toll".

the "full foli".

Citing the local medical examiner's office,
Mr Poloncarz said many of the victims had
died from heart problems while shovelling or
blowing snow. Some were found dead in their
vehicles.

# New ad to help reduce energy bills

A NEW TV advert will encourage people to save energy as the Government steps up its public information

campaign.

The ad comes as part of the Government's £18 million It All Adds Up initiative, which was launched earlier this month to raise awareness of "straightforward" measures people can take to cut their bills

take to cut their bills over the colder months. The 30-second advert offers suggestions about how to cut bills and save energy.
The advert will air on ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5, Sky and other channels.
It tells the myblic

other channels.

It tells the public:
"This is a 30-second ad.
That's not long, but it is long enough to do something that could save you money on your energy bills." The ad marks a break from Liz Truss's

government, who blocked a similar ad over concerns about the "nanny state".
Energy Secretary
Grant Shapps tweeted:

"Keep an eye out for the #ItAllAddsUp campaign, which is full of ways to help save on your bills."

# China opens up after three years

CHINA will scrap quarantine for travellers from January 8, officials said, marking the last major shift from its zero-

COVID policy.

After almost three
years of closed borders, it will reopen the country to those with work and study visas, or seeking to

sit family.

But it comes as China struggles with the virus's feroclous spread in the wake of restrictions being lifted.

Reports say hospitals are overwhelmed and elderly people are dying. The true toll is

currently unknown because officials have stopped releasing COVID

Beijing had reported about 4,000 new COVID infections each day last week and few deaths.

# **Fatcat energy** firms hoard direct debit payments **ENERGY** firms have been accused of Gas and electricity giants are accused of using their customers' money as a cheap source of credit despite millions facing hardship during the cost-of-living crisis. One EDF customer, who was charged over £2,300 for energy she has not used, said she was still facing increased payments despite barely using her heating this winter. The company has since apologised and lowered her payments. By COLIN HURST

hoarding £2billion of their customers' hard-earned cash and raising direct debit repayments despite billpayers being in credit, it's been revealed.

apologised and lowered her payments.

It comes as energy bills have doubled over the last year, rising from an average of £1,277 in October 2021 to £2,500 at present.

Christine Farnish,

By COLIN HURST news@sundaysport.co.uk

former board member of Ofgem, slammed the watchdog for allowing the practice to thrive. Ms Farnish, who quit

her role earlier this year, said: "Energy firms are allowed to put their hand into a customer's pocket and

use advance customer payments to fund their own businesses. "It's my guess that

hard-pressed families have no idea that part of their energy direct used to their energy direct debits are used to provide cheap financing for their supplier, rather than actually paying for energy consumed." Separate analysis

from Oxera found firms

from Oxera found firms were holding, hundreds of millions of pounds in customer credit.
Centrica, who owns British Gas, held £588million in money that their users have paid for in advance.

# TODAY'S WEATHER RAIN will sweep across northern England and much of Scotland this

morning.
The south will see showers but the wind gets up

as the day wears on.
Temperatures
of 11C in London,

10C in Cardiff, 9C in Manchester, 8C in Ifast and 8C in Edinburgh.

rest of the week

THREE OWN WEIGHTS OUTLINES. SUN: FRI: SAT: Dull Cloudy

looks unsettled with blustery showers in the north and west.

Temperatures of 11C in London, 12C in Cardiff, 10C in Manchester, 11C in Belfast and 9C in Edinburgh.
OUTLOOK: Unsettled.

# THE troubled Balkans are

poised on the brink of war...

poised on the brink of war... again.

The Serbian army says it is at its "highest level of combat readiness" after weeks of escalating tensions between Serbia and Kosovo.

President Aleksandar Vucic says he will "take all measures to protect our people and

says ne will take all measure to protect our people and preserve Serbia".

The sabre-rattling is louder than ever and follows some media claims in Serbia that Pristina is preparing "an

attack" on ethnic Serb areas in north Kosovo.

The government in Pristina has made no comment about the allegations. But it has accused Mr Vucic of playing "games" to stir up trouble.

Kosovo, which has an overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian majority, broke away from Serbia after a war in 1998-99. Serbia does not recognise Kosovo as an independent state, nor do Serbs who live there.

Belgrade accuses Kosovo of plotting "terrorism against

Serbs" in areas where some 50,000 ethnic Serbs live.
In return, Pristina says
Belgrade is behind
"paramilitary formations" that
set up roadblocks in majority Serb areas of north Kosovo on

10 December.
The European Union has been The European Union has been attempting to mediate. The 27-member bloc is calling for "maximum restraint and immediate action" and for the leaders of Serbia and Kosovo to "personally contribute to a political solution".





a coma

JENNIFER Aniston has revealed a sex scene was CUT from one of her movies because film bosses reckoned it was too controversial.

In the 2011 film Horrible Bosses and its 2014 sequel Horrible Bosses 2 Aniston takes on the role of Julia Harris, but the star explained one scene involved her

character crossing a

character crossing a line.

Juliasexually harasses colleague Dale at work, but the deleted scene saw her taking things to a whole new level.

## **Exploit**

Aniston explained that her character was supposed to share a sex scene with Day's, only it 'was kind of not mutual' because he was literally unconscious.

She struggled to find the words to describe the scene, saying: "I exploit him while he is in a coma.

exploit him while he is in a coma.
"So it was a sex scene that was sort of. they removed it. But I bet it's in the DVD extras!"
Aniston went on to describe the scene as a

### By GRACE HOOPER news@sundaysport.co.uk

'terrifying thing to have to shoot' because she wasn't able to work off

wasn't able to work off her co-star.

"You usually have someone there to support you but he's just lying there in a coma... and I'm like front ways, this ways, that way... all by myself," she said. In spite of Aniston's struggles during that particular scene, she said she 'couldn't wait' to come back to the character.

character.

character.
"I love it," she said.
Aniston said she was
'excited' to return to
Julia's outrageous
personality because
"you can go far with her
and it's all fair game".

SOUTH Korean officials have lifted an import ban on adult-sized sex dolls and sex arses. The decision comes after

years of debate over whether

years of debate over whether the government was interfering in people's private lives. The revised guidelines allow adult-shaped dolls through customs, but child-like dolls resembling minors are still prohibited, the Korea Customs Service said. Service said.

Sex dolls are not illegal in South Korea. However, thousands of them have been seized in customs since 2018.



# Refund-snub man stole £1 off Starbucks

A MAN was nicked after robbing a Starbucks coffee shop when the store refused to refund his missus £1.

store refused to refund his missus £1.
Richard Engle, 61
Richard E

was 10110Wed by an employee, who took a photo of the licence plate on Engle's car.

As the employee was taking the picture, Engle backed his car into the employee "c

into the employee "a few times", police said. Engle was tracked down at his home and

taken into custody.

He faces charges o
robbery and assault.



# Heart found at gritter depot

STAFF loading gritters at a transport depot were stunned to find a HUMAN

stunned to find a HUMAN HEART lying in a pile of rock salt. Workers at the state Transportation Department salt facility in McEwen, Tennessee, were making preparations for a cold snap when they made the

officials are treating the facility as a crime scene and are currently investigating the case as a homicide.



# Jamie: Give skint kids free dinners

FAT tongued Mockney Jamie Oliver has warned that "chaos ensues" from parents worrying about feeding their children as he called on the Government to extend free school meals to every child whose

free school meals to every child whose parents are on Universal Credit. Currently households in England receiving Universal Credit must earn below £7,400 a year before benefits and after tay to qualify

year before benefits and after tax to qualify for free school meals. According to the Food Foundation, it is estimated that 800,000 children in England are living in poverty but do not qualify. It comes as Westminster Council announced that all

children attending state-funded primary schools in the borough will be eligible for free school meals.

school meals.

Oliver said he was
"proud" of the council's
new policy.
"Every school, all
32,000 of them, could
be just like this," he
said.
"This is ours to

said.
"This is ours to celebrate. So, of course, I'm proud of what they're doing here. And when you see it working... you do realise it's not rocket science."



# Milk bottle top is a priceless Roman earring

A METAL detectorist said he sunk to his knees in disbelief when he realised a "metal milk bottle top" he had unearthed was in fact a priceless gold Roman earring.

Nick Bateman, 53, from Burston, Norfolk, made the find in a field he had nicknamed

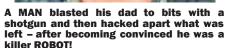
"disappointment" after regular searches revealed

The earring was initially believed to be medieval but closer examination by an expert revealed it was Roman.

It has been declared treasure and will be lent to a Diss Museum

# Cops stunned by son's tale after grisly slaying ) I BLAS





The bizarretale unfolded after cops were called to a house belonging to builder Shawn Hays.

Police say they got a call from someone who

Police say they got a call from someone who said Hays told them that his father was turned into a robot, so Hays shot and mutilated him. The call came after Facebook accounts linked to Hays detailed a variety of alarming and troubling thoughts. In one post, written only a week before the shooting, Hays declared distrust in his father writing that he believed someone had kidnapped or murdered his dad and replaced him with "a robot that looks like my dad."

When police arrived at the home on the outskirts of Mitchell, Indiana, they saw Hays trying to back out of the driveway.

When they asked

trying to back out of the driveway.

When they asked about his father, cops say Hays told them that it wasn't his father, but was instead a robot that

latest videos are

fresh evidence

she's gone bonkers again.

looked like his father. Police say he "got

neil@sundaysport.co.uk

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combative" when they
asked him to get out of
the truck.
During the argument,
Hays told them "It's a
robot that looks like a
human... laying over
there. I had to shoot at
it to destroy it."
After arresting Hays,
officers found his father
in front of the house,
dead from gunshot
wounds to his head and
chest.

wounds to his head and chest.

His body was also mutilated and partially dismembered.

When interviewed Hays admitted to shooting, mutilating, and partially dismembering the "robot", who looked like his father.

He is charged with

like his father.

He is charged with
murder, abuse of a corpse,
criminal recklessness
with a deadly weapon,
and resisting law enforcement.



# Pet killed with hammer

A MAN beat his flatmate's pet raccoon to death with a hammer and threatened to kill her and a neighbour. Tevin Williams, 31, allegedly beat the animal

I evin Williams, 31, allegedly beat the animal and shot it with an air gun, moments after he held a sewing needle to his neighbour's neck. Williams' flatmate told Florida cops that when she arrived home, he came out and began pounding on her car yelling "I'm going to kill you." Williams, was arrested and charged with

assault with a deadly weapon and animal cruelty.





# Sex for rent landlord on 42 charges

A LANDLORD has been hit with more than three dozen charges for demanding sexual favours from 30 low-income tenants in exchange for housing help

exchange for housing help. Joseph Centanni, 75, of Mountainside, New Jersey, was charged in a 42-count indictment that includes 23 counts of second-degree sexual assault and 19 counts of fourth-degree sexual contact.

assaut and 19 couns assaut and 19 couns of fourth-degree sexual contact.

The creepy landlord allegedly bribed men and women ages 22 to 61 to engage in sexual favours between 2013 and 2020.

"The defendant allegedly solicited the sex acts from his victims as a quid proquo, agreeing to offer them rent reductions, or a delay in eviction," the statement said.

"He also purportedly threatened tenants who hesitated or refused his advances with eviction or other retaliatory measures."

retaliatory measures."
Centanni was
arrested in June 2021
and paid a massive
£3.7m to resolve a
different lawsuit.

# Fact me! ONE 18-inch pizza is bigger than TWO 12-inch pizzas.

# 'Too fat to fly' passenger wins compo

A COURT has ordered Qatar Airways to pay for psychotherapy for a plus-size model they reportedly refused to board because she was "too fat." Juliana Nehme, 38, accused the airline of

accused the airline of discriminating against her due to her size.

In a post, Juliana told her 167,000 Instagram followers she was not allowed to board her flight from Beirut to Doha on Nov 22 allegedly due to her weight

NOV 22 allegeary due to her weight. She had been on holiday in Lebanon with her family. On their way home to Brazil, Juliana said a staffer told her she

said a staffer told her she would have to purchase a more expensive first-class seat to board the flight. And now, a court in Sao Paulo, has ordered Qatar Airways to pay for psychotherapy so she can come to terms with the distress caused.















By BRAD CHADWICK news@sundaysport.co.uk

A HUSBAND was arrested for A HUSBAND was arrested for chopping up his wife because she told him off about his COMIC collection and wouldn't let him open a comic book shop.

Stephen Capaldi is accused of murder in the third degree according to the Bucks County District Attorney's Office in Pennsylvania.

The investigation began in October

The investigation began in October after Elizabeth Capaldi, 55, was reported missing by her daughter.

The victim, according to police, was last seen alive by her husband on Oct 10.

Stephen Capaldi reportedly confessed to murdering his wife in an interview with detectives.

COMIC NUT: Capaldi

**Affair** 

The husband allegedly said he suffocated his wife with a pillow while she was sleeping. A search of the man's phone reportedly found confirmation that he was in a six-month-long "sexual affair" with another woman.

Reports also indicate internet searches, such as, "how to get away

as, "how to get away with murder," "how to control your dark

impulses," "how to disappear and never be found," and more.
According to reports, the man purchased and sold thousands of dollars of comic books. Detectives discovered the couple has argued about the "thousands" of comics in the cellar.

A report indicates an alleged motive: "The fact that he had found someone (his mistress) that he loved and who supported his dream of opening a comic book

store with his brother while his wife did not."

The man reportedly agreed to lead cops to his wife's body.

Capaldi, 57, stands accused of one count each of murder in the third degree, possessing an instrument of crime, tampering with or fabricating physical evidence, and further obstructing the administration of law or other governmental function and abuse of a corpse. corpse.



Beat up hubby over phone pics A COUPLE'S romantic

Christmas getaway was ruined when a woman twatted her husband after finding naked snaps on his phone. Paula Barbour,55, was

Paula Barbour,55, was arrested for attacking her husband at the airport after finding naked pictures on his phone as they arrived on holiday Police confirmed that Paula and her husband had flown to South Carolina for a holiday, but beat her husband up after.

Carolina for a noliday, but beat her husband up after finding 'indecent photos' on his phone which lead to an argument, at Charleston Airport. CCTV footage showed

Barbour throwing her husband's phone, kicking him and attempting to hit his face.

Charged with one count of third-degree domestic violence she will now appear in court in February.





just love 'em! Celeb babes just adore flashing their bits on social media and here's a selection of the hottest ones this



**GWYNETH** 





CARA proved herself to be even more a sex-positive legend by announcing that

legend by announcing that she co-owns sex toy company Lora DiCarlo. She joined the company as co-owner and creative advisor in November.

It means the model and actress will be using "her voice and platform to inspire and encourage humans to embrace their sexuality with

positivity and confidence".

The firm also said she was "sharing their unified values of unapologetically celebrating sexual exploration and working to destignatise sexuality".

Cara said the sex toy company's vision "represents so much of what I stand for – womenled, femme-focused and pleasure inclusive" and that she is "so excited".

LILY has launched her

LILY has launched her very own sex toy – and it seems to be going down a treat with shoppers. Selling for an eye-watering £89.99 on Lovehoney, the vibrator is the subject of wild praise from customers –

is the subject of wild praise from customers – with some claiming it is life changing. Having previously championed the Womanizer brand of vibrators, Lily has collaborated with the

collaborated with the company to create her own version of the "suction vibrator".

The Liberty is billed as a travel-ready clitoral stimulator combining sweet suction with soft pressure waves.

sweet suction with soft pressure waves.
Womanizer's patented Pleasure Air Technology pulses with 6 intensity levels of touchless stimulation – using a sucker to really ramp up the tingles.

GWYNETH is giving her Goop.com readers great expectations for their sex lives – including a £12,000 gold-plated dildo for the super-rich!

But the star's selections for mere mortals like the rest of us range from exploratory to Fifty Shades and are perfect for "all scenarios", according to Goop.

"Sex toys have long since graduated from the floppy rubber things you hide in your bedside table to beautiful works of interactive art," the site explained.

Products for the price-conscious

Products for the price-conscious include a Fetish Fantasy Gold Beginner's Fantasy Kit for around £30, which comes with gold handcuffs and a black mask with matching paddle. There's also Liquid's Organics Natural Lubricant, which is infused with hibiscus, green tea and aloe and retails for \$13.

Best of all? It's stain-free!

# VIBRATORS A

By JAYNE FERGUSON

ews@sundavsport.co.uk

TIME was when an actress only sought fame through the director's camera lens.

But in these strange times, more and more of our lady stars have taken up a lucrative sideline -

selling sex toys!

It seems merely taking top billing in a Hollywood blockbuster, or conquering the music charts, is simply no longer enough for these money-minded minxes.

## **Bedroom**

None of them will admit it, but it seems likely they've been encouraged by the likes of Khloe Kardashian, who gifted sister Kim a dildo last year and saw its brand sales rocket

And the recent Covid-19 lockdowns have also helped boost sales of bedroom gadgets to help spice things

up between the sheets.
All of which shows that, as these stars already know, where there's f\*\*\*, there's brass!



MEGAN gripped a large sex toy while wearing see-through lingerie and promised her fans it will revolutionise their love lives when she launched the new product last

The Love Island star looked great in a sheer bodysuit as she

lounged across a leopard print

throw on a red leather sofa.

She turned her head to look seductively at the camera as a blue vibrator balanced on her

Urging her followers to try out the toy, she wrote: "If you'd like to

revolutionize and enhance your pleasure, you have to try the new rabbit vibrator from @leloofficial.

"Meet Soraya Wave, she will reach your g-spot with ease and its design was inspired by the caress of lover's fingers."







# LIGHTER FLUID ATTACK: Tuhonsty She thought he'd poisoned her chicken wings

WOMAN allegedly set her sleeping husband on fire after believing he had tried to

polson her with chicken wings.
Henry Williams woke up with his hair on fire, prompting him to frantically try to extinguish the flames with his hands.
He gathered up his three-month-old daughter and fled the home he shares with his wife, Tuhonsty Marie Smith, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## **Abuse**

Cops believe Smith set him on fire and they have charged her with arson of a building, first-degree recklessly endangering safety and mayhem, and

domestic abuse assessments.
Williams, who suffered second and
third-degree burns, told police his
wife's behaviour had changed in recent months.

He said he told her he was ending their marriage a few days prior to the

By SUZIE SHELDON

fiery incident, prompting even more erratic behaviour from her.

According to a criminal complaint, Smith told authorities that she believed her husband poisoned chicken wings she ate hours prior to the fire

chicken wings she ate hours prior to the fire.

Smith allegedly admitted to filling a cup full of lighter fluid and pouring it on her husband's head.

Then she allegedly used a lighter to start the fire.

Smith has been ordered to undergo a competency evaluation following her first court appearance.

The couple's property owner and friend, Denise Wilson, said: "The house is just a thing and that's why you have insurance, but as long as he's going to be okay that's my main concern."

She said Williams faces a "long road to recovery with his burns but ultimately he'll be okay".

# Aussies overrun by mice and snakes

IT'S about to get even worse for Australia, which is in the grip of a Biblical plague of mice. Hordes of cannibalistic,

fire-starting mice have taken over almost half of the country from Brisbane

to Melbourne.

But the worst is yet to come, as experts warn a plague of SNAKES is sure

plague of SNAKES is sure to follow. "After the mice, the snakes will follow," said Gerard Dallow, from Micropest in Sydney. Dallow explained that the glut of mice will

cause snakes to breed faster and soon the whole of Australia will be a

mass of deadly serpents.
Millions of mice have caused severe crop damage and have even started eating each other as food sources run out.

# COPS HUNTING 'BI GROPER OF BRON

COPS are on the trail of a pervert nicknamed the Bum Groper of the Bronx'.

The sicko groped the backsides of two women

The sicko groped the backsides of two women and exposed himself to one of them, according to police, who released a photo (below) of the suspect.

The man first struck inside a residential building on East 147th Street and Southern Boulevard when he approached a 17-year-old female from behind and touched her buttocks, cops said.

When the teenager confronted the assailant, he ran off.

ran off.

ran off.

Less than an hour later, the same creep followed a woman into an elevator in a residential building on Fox Street and Leggett Avenue, authorities said.

The suspect exposed his penis and grabbed the woman's buttocks.

The victim left the elevator and the suspect fled.





# Man who beat Death Row shot dead at funeral

A WRONGLY convicted man who spent 25 years on Death Row was fatally shot while attending a funeral, less than two years after being exonerated of his crimes.
Father-of-six, Christopher Williams was shot in the head while driving as part of a funeral procession for Tyree Little in North Philadelphia.
Williams spent 25 years on Death Row before being exonerated of four murders and released in 2021.
He was shot once in the head as he stepped out of his car. He was rushed to hospital, where he was pronounced dead less than half an hour later

pronounced dead less than half an hour later. Williams, 62, had

Williams, 62, had also been acquitted of two more murders – all involving the same jailhouse snitch. He had been convicted of the 1989 murders on the basis of false testimony and suppressed evidence.

# **NUDE GYMNASTICS**

CHESTER Menefee Jr., 51. and Lisa Hadnot. 41. 51, and Lisa Hadnot, 41, were charged with public order and drug offences after being found naked, trying to do handstands and "talking gibberish" at a bar in Lufkin, Texas.



**BELLA ELLIS,** 32D, FROM CAMDEN, NORTH LONDON



WHILE you were opening presents, tucking into turkey, and scoffing plum duff, do you know

what we were doing?
That's right – the lights
rever go out at Midweek
Sport Towers and all over
the Christmas break we've

the Christmas break we've been hard at it.
What we decided we needed to lift us all from that post Christmas gloom was a sexy five-page photo special with gorgeous babes.
But what was the theme?
We decided on suspenders because, well... you can never go wrong with fit women in suspenders.
So, while you are still digesting your Christmas feast, settle down and enjoy the next five fun-filled pages of topless babes in sussies.
Over to you...























PRISON ESCAPE:

Steinman performed

student

# Cops identify severed head after 4 years

A SEVERED head found on the side of a busy road has been identified after FOUR YEARS!

The bonce was found in a plastic bag next to a road through a swamp in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, in 2018.

Parish, Louisiana, in 2018.

The Cameron Parish Sheriff's Department said a recent tip had led investigators to confirm that the remains belonged to Sally Ann Hines, 58, using dental records.

The San Antonio, Texas, woman was last seen leaving her home on December 14, 2017.

Hines (above) had a medical condition and had reportedly left her home barefoot without her purse, phone, car or medication on the day she disappeared.

Cops believe she was murdered somewhere else and dumped in the marsh. Har body has

else and dumped in the marsh. Her body has not been found.

not been found.
Cameron Parish
Sheriff Ron Johnson
said: "There are lots of
alligators about and
they believe if they
dump a body here, the
alligators will eat it."



# Terror flight as bat goes crazy in cabin

AN Air India flight to New York City had to be rerouted back to New Delhi 30 minutes after takeoff when a crazed bat started flying around the cabin to the shock and

cabin to the shock and horror of passengers. "On arrival, it was learnt that crew members saw a bat inside the cabin," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials said. "Wildlife staff were

"Wildlife staff were called to catch and take away the bat. The aircraft landed safely and later it was declared Aircraft on Grounded (AoG)."
The plane underwent a complete fumigation and the bat's carcass was

the bat's carcass was retrieved from the business class cabin.

"The probable reason/ cause may be loading vehicles like those for catering," an Air India official said.

"All the time rats/bats come from their vehicle.





A FORMER high school band director accused having a relationship with student has escaped jail.

Ashlee Steinman, allegedly sucked allegedly sucked 18-year-old's hard cock until he erupted gushes of semen down pretty teacher's throat.

Steinman is also alleged to have sent the student pictures of her held-open fanny, described in court described in court documents as "dripping with juice", and another pic of herself fingering her own anus.

## Illegal

Despite the student being the age of consent, under Alabama law it is illegal for a teacher to have a sexual relationship with an 18-year-old student. Chilton County High School band director

School band director Steinman was initially charged with the crimes of school employee engaging in a sex act with a student and using her official position to gain access to the student and carry out the illegal relationship. The charge of an employee engaging in a sex act with a student carries a maximum

sexual

the LITON C. JA By SUZIE SHELDON

> news@sundaysport.co.uk sentence of 20 years. But Steinman pleaded guilty to one count of a school employee distributing obscene

matter to a student, which is a less serious

offence. Under the agreement, Stein received a one-y suspended sente with two years probation. Steinman one-year sentence

She is to have no contact with the male victim in Clanton, Alabama.

Alabama.

Records also show that Steinman was ordered to immediately sign termination papers with the Chilton County cabool system, as well school system, as well as surrender her teaching certificate and attend 10 hours of tounselling with mental health facility.

HARDCORE

SEX CHAT



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09083 938139 LICK MY DIRTY A\*\*\*

through the swimsuit.
One commented:

"Shaven. Fully shaven."



# ristmas

DOESN'T really matter if you're into Christmas or not. But by any standard, mine was dreadful.

I woke up for a wee, as ever. It was just before 9am, which wasn't

was just before 9am, which wasn't too bad.

I put my foot down on the carpet and it lands in a cold sluice of waterlogged carpet. And it really is cold.

I look at the radiator. Feel the pipes. They're both dry. Smashing.

So the water must be coming up from underneath us.

Which is handy on any day, never mind Christmas Day, especially as "underneath" us is concrete and earth.

earth. Fine. F\*\*k it. Heating's going up.

I munch of a packet of Fruit Salad-

I munch of a packet of Fruit Salad-flavoured Chewits.

We're both fed up. We're both ill. We'd probably both prefer to just go back to bed again, but neither of us wants to say it.

A flick through the channels in vain hope of saving the day from utter disaster finds 'The Batman on Sky – it's already been on for weeks – and, er, that's it, new-blockbuster wise.

We look at each other with the look that says "no way" when I appear to contemplate ducking into the non-HID world of terrible movies, shopping channels and God TV.

A few months back I watched the new Top Gun at the cinema and thought it was brilliant.

So we went for the last possible

I half stagger into the kitchen – I'm on week three of "super cold" and am still struggling to move, although I have started keeping food down.

She's up. But she's watching Game of Thrones again so, I grab a coffee, and return to bed, this time missing the wet natch.

the wet patch.

The phone is next to me so I pick it up and see what the fuss is all about.
Ah.

A young woman was been shot to A young woman was been shot to death in a pub about a five minutes' taxi ride from here.

This is not a pub where people get shot - at all

shot - at all.

## **Dead**

This is a pub I used to visit with my parents when I was kid. There was an outside bit you can sit

at with your pop and crisps and occasional wander over to try to feed the horses.

It was where I had my 18th birthday

celebrations, or at least was meant to if any of my mates had actually turned up.

And still, there's a girl shot dead in

And still, there's a girl shot dead in the car park of the pub where I used to feed the horses.

Sluggishly, as I have no other mode right now, I try to spend the day catching up with anything new.

Dinner time!

Except my helpful sub-Saharan

Except my helpful sub-Saharan stomach has denied it is very much

not dinnertime.

She eats turkey and trimmings as

chance of the night and flicked on to Paramount+ (free with Sky Cinema package, kids!).

And we watched it again, only this time in the living room, and it was absolutely crap.

Exactly the same story as the first time. It was so rubbish we ended up turning it off and went to bed.

She got tucked up while went I round turning the lights off.

Then, now in the pitch black, I navigated my way up my side of the bed to get in.

But not before sinking my foot in the glacier lake on the carpet first.



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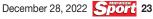
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Miss January: Amy Green 32D, from Sheffield

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# Veteran cop had meth lab in his house

A COP was busted for running a METH LAB in his house. Christopher Walls,

50, was arrested after his co-workers were called to his home because of a domestic

disturbance.

After someone in the house tipped them off about Walls' Breaking about Walls' Breaking
Bad-style antics, cops
found the ingredients
and equipment for
making meth in the
basement and a shed.
Walls (above) had
books related to
making meth,
explosives and poison.
Officers also found a
stash of six guns high-

Officers also found a stash of six guns, high-capacity magazines and ammo in an unsecured safe that could have been accessed by a child living in the house. Walls, a 19-year veteran of the Long Branch, New Jersey, police department, is facing six charges related to the meth production as well as a second degree child endangerment charge and firearm possession during a controlled-dangerous substance dangerous substance offence.



# Fuel 'hoarder' set on fire after car flips and explodes

A WOMAN who was hoarding petrol tried to flee police in a stolen car but crashed and was set on fire.

A cop tried to pull over a 2007 Pontiac G6 after he ran the plates and found it was stolen.

Jessica Patterson, 28, tried to outrun the officer but lost control of the car and flipped it over.
"The vehicle

immediately caught fire and multiple explosions were heard inside the vehicle," officials wrote.

Patterson emerged from the car on fire and the cop pushed her to the ground to extinguish the flames in Greenville, South Carolina.

The suspect was "hoarding" containers of fuel in the boot, which

started the fire. Yanks have been panic buying petrol after a vital pipeline was hacked.



star must be... Grappler Matt Riddle has been linked to not one but

TWO porn stars.

After the 36-year-old split from his wife of 11 years, Lisa, earlier this year, the hunk was linked to 34D porn stunna

Jordan Maxx.
But at an event last week, he was spotted swapping spit with tattooed Misha Montana.

Matt's currently banned from WWE telly shows after failing a

drug test.

But he's still hot news on

the wrestling world, not least because of his hot new squeeze. And the saga's still bubbling because when a grapple fan made a joke about Matt bonking Misha, Jordan Maxx jumped in on social media.

## Hurtful

The beauty stormed: "Does it make you feel better about yourself to kick people when they're down?
"Try to imagine for one second,

INDUSTRY.

"And then, rather than keeping plans for Christmas and NYE, he's going to rehab? Do you have any idea how confusing and hurtful that is?"

According to sources, Matt's gone into rehab after failing the drugs test.

An insider asid: "That's probably the safest place for him with all these furious women wanting to whoop his ass!"

the man you've spent the last 6 months with, who said I love you' for the first time 2 months ago, is all of a sudden making out with someone else WHO IS IN YOUR INDUSTRY.



NEW GIRL IN THE RING: Matt and





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# Dear Bexi,

I WENT on a lads' weekend to Blackpool and got chatting to a brunette. I thought I was well in but she said her hubby was meeting her later. I must have chatted up 20 girls and not got a sniff and I was about to give up hope when I bumped into this lovely little blonde tease. She was all smiles, had a sexy Scottish accent and her flimsy blouse hung off her massive tits.

I asked her back to the B&B I was at and as soon as we walked through the door she was on her knees in front of me. She unzipped my pants and teased the head of my cock with the tip of her tongue. I moaned with pleasure as she softly massaged my balls and took me deeper in her mouth.

deeper in her mouth.

For the next 10 minutes she gave me the best blowjob I'd ever had. But I made the mistake of giving her my mobile number and now she's started calling me. I'm sure my wife is going to get suspicious. What should I do?

JK. Manchester

CHANGE your phone, you idiot! And be nmore careful next time

# Dear Bexi,

MY girlfriend's mum has been coming on to me a lot lately. I resisted her efforts until a couple of weeks ago. I saw her in the pub and after a few drinks she whispered in my ear: "I want to suck your cock."

As you can imagine I found this a turn-on and we went to my place. She didn't take long to get her chops around my throbbing sausage. Just as I was about to come I took off her blouse and spunked on her 36DDs. She then took off her soaking knickers and I licked her out. She was begging me to do her doggy-style and I gave her a good seeing-to on the couch.

She was so good in bed that I finished with her daughter, but her mum went mad at me as her daughter is vowing never to speak to her again.

I realise I made a big mistake and want my ex back. What should I do?

TS, Glasgow

TS, Glasgou

**Bexi says...**YOU should forget about getting back with this girl. You

# committed the ultimate petrayal

# **Should I leave girlfriend** for sex with her bessie?

# Dear Bexi.

MY girlfriend's best mate is really fit and has a reputation for putting it about. She's 23, blonde, with a lovely

She's 23, blonde, with a lovely-body and massive tits.

I was in the pub with her a couple of weeks ago when my girl-friend was away at her mother's. She came right out with it and asked if I fancied shagging her a couple of times a week. I thought she was winding me up and was setting a trap, but she assured me that it would be our secret, so we went back to her secret, so we went back to her place.
She was insatiable and loved

sucking my cock and bringing me off between her tits. I returned the favour, licking her soft pink

fanny lips and hard little clit until she came wetly. We now meet twice a week. She

We now meet twice a week. She loves tying me up and riding me until I spunk up her.

The problem is I want her to move in with me, but she said it's just a bit of fun to her.

I'm now thinking of finishing with my girlfriend in the hope that this will convince her friend that I'm serious about her.

Should I?

TF, Birmingham

TF, Birmingham

### Bexi says...

EVEN if you do, I doubt it t will make any difference. This girl thas made it clear that she only wants a bit of

When things get serious, that



Bexi says...

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I THINK you already know the answer

Now you'd best get cracking!

WHAT are you waiting for? Go and pack your ski gear now!

DP, Middleses

Should I go?

Bexi says...





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  14. Parsley, say (4)
  15. Speech defect (4)
  16. Beseech (3)
  17. An enticement (4)
  19. Therefore (4)
  21. Of great significance (9)
  23. Ballet skirt (4)
  24. Female sheep (4)
  26. Wet spongy ground (3)

- 24. Female sheep (4)
  26. Wet spongy ground (3)
  27. Mediocre, informally (2-2)
  29. Make things with wool (4)
  32. Jewels (4)
  33. Wild animal (5)
  34. Scattered or scanty (6)
  35. Be successful (3,5)

- 36. Rupture (6)

### **DOWN**

- 1. Stupid, foolish (5) 2. Enrage (5) 3. Long (5)

- 3. Long journey (4)
  4. Dens (5)
  5. Familiar idle talk (4)
  6. Clans (6)
  9. Walk softly (6)
  11. Golf peg (3)
  12. Senior monk (5)
  13. Person giving testimony (7)
  15. Falsehood (3)
  16. Public transport vehicle (3)
  18. Entertains (6)
  20. Arctic dog (5)

- 20. Arctic dog (5) 21. Drinking vessel (3) 22. Number (3)
- 23. Hairpiece (6) 25. Rubbish receptacle (3) 28. Greek letter (5)

- 30. Not ever (5) 31. Slow in developing (5) 32. Broad smile (4) 33. Cure (4)

# 1. POP act LadBaby beat The Beatles record of Christmas No.1s with how many chart toppers? a) 4 b) 5 c) 6 d) 7

# 2. PM Rishi Sunak caused outrage by mistakenly asking a homeless person if he worked in what profession?

- a) Nursing b) Football
- c) Business d) Engineering

# 3. PUB chain JD Wetherspoons announced their cheapest Janaury pint will cost how much?

- a) 88p b) £1.11
- c) 90p d) 99p

# 4. FOOTBALL superstar Cristiano Ronaldo looks set to earn £175m a year playing for a club in which

- country?
  a) Dubai
  b) USA
  c) Saudi Arabia c) Saudi A d) Japan

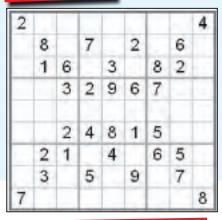
# 5. TWO people were killed in a crowd crush outside which London venue?

- a) Brixton Academyb) Camden Roundhouse

QUIZ: !. b. 2. c. 3. d. 4. c. 5. a. 6. c. 7. a. 8. b. 9. d. 10. a,

3. Trek; 4. Lairs; 5. Chat; 6. Tribes; 9. Tiptoe; 11. Tee; 12. Abbot; 12. Witness; 15. Lle; 20. Husky; 21. Mug; 22. Two; 23. Toupee; 30. Never; 31. Tardy; 30. Never; 31. Tardy; 32. Grin; 33. Heal.

# **SPORTDUKO**



- c) The O2 Arena d) Shepheards Bush Empire
- 6. WHICH Kardashian allowed her second child Tristan to be photographed for the first time this week?

- a) Kim
  b) Kourtney
  c) Khloe
  d) Kendall Jenner

# 7. WHICH Geordie Shore star has lost almost three stone after going on a strict diet?

- strict diet?
  a) Marnie Simpson
  b) Vicky Pattison
  c) James Tindale
  d) Chloe Ferry
- 8. WHICH British pop star's fortune rocketed by £11.5m this year after

- releasing her first album
- in five years?
  a) Annie Lennox
  b) Adele
  c) Dua Lipa
- d) Rita Ora
- 9. WHICH Hollyoaks actor was rushed to hospital on Boxing Day after being involved in a car accident that wrecked his motor? a) Owen Warner b) Nick Pickard c) Kieron Richardson d) Gary Lucy
- 10. THE death of which star of *The Crown* and *Blake's Seven* was announced at the age of
- a) Stephen Greif b) Jonathan Pryce c) Charles Edwards d) Tobias Menzies

# ANSWERS

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SUPERMARKET worker Freddie Carter reckons he needs some help to cope with all the Chrsitmas and New Year sales – in the form of a topless legend Hayley Finch showing off her incredible 34F boobs. He said: "I'm a south Londoner from Purley, too, so I always hope she might pop into the store at some point." I haven't care SUPERMARKET

point.
"I haven't seen her yet, though!"
Well, Freddie, in
the meantime
here's a topless
photo of the lovely photo of the lovely Hayley to brighten up your day and help keep your pecker up during the shopping madness. Enjoy!





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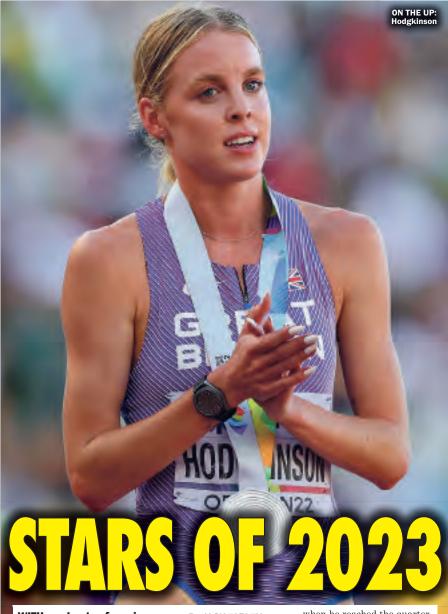


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# REVIEW OF 2022: YOUNGSTERS TO WATCH



WITH a host of major **World Championships set** to take place in 2023, here is our 10 young stars who are best placed to take their respective sports by storm.

FUNMI FADOJU (NETBALL)

Fast-rising Fadoju is at the forefront of a new wave of England netball stars.

Named as a reserve for the Commonwealth Games in the

Commonwealth Games in the summer, Fadoju subsequently starred in series against Uganda and Australia, and will play an integral role in her country's 2023 World Cup bid.

RICHARD MANSEL (GOLF)

The 27-year-old Mansell enjoyed by far the best season of his career in 2022, missing just five cuts in 25 starts and qualifying for the seasonending DP World Tour Championship in Dubai for the first time, recording four top-10 finishes in the process.

REHAN AHMED (CRICKET)

REHAN AHMED (CRICKET)

The Leicestershire legspinner was fast-tracked into the Test squad for the winter tour of Pakistan at the age of just 18. He made a huge impact in the one Test he played, taking five wickets in the second innings at Lahore. Equally adept with red and white ball, and with a County Championship ton already on

### By JACK FARLEY

his CV, Ahmed is well-placed to continue to make waves next summer.

MORGAN GANNON (RUGBY LEAGUE)

MORGAN GANNON (RUGBY LEAGUE)
The 19-year-old Gannon has
made a meteoric rise since
making his Leeds Rhinos
debut in 2021 and his progress
is set to continue under coach
Rohan Smith. Originally a
back-rower, Gannon has been
training at stand-off, hinting
at even more of an impact in
Super League in 2023.

MANALETISSIER LEGOTRALL

at even more of an impact in Super League in 2023.

MAYA LETISSIER (FOOTBALL)

The 20-year-old defender joined Manchester United from Brighton in the summer and subsequently made her England debut in the 1-1 draw with Norway in Murcia in November. Le Tissier is set to be part of the Lionesses squad for next year's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

HENRY ARUNDELL (RUGBY UNION)

Arundell marked his international emergence by scoring a stunning solo try in the first Test against Australia in July. The London Irish wing sensation is recovering from a foot injury but is set to be central to the thinking of Steve Borthwick.

JACK DRAPER (TENNIS)

### JACK DRAPER (TENNIS)

Draper has continued to progress since his stunning arrival in the big time in 2021,

when he reached the quarter-finals at Queen's Club then took a set off Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon.

Inais at queens club then took a set off Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon.

Currently a career-high 42, Draper also reached the NextGen semi-finals in October.

JOE O'CONNOR (SNOOKER)

O'Connor's first ranking final appearance at the Scottish Open in December may have ended in a crushing 9-2 defeat to Gary Wilson, but the Leicester 27-year-old earned gushing praise from Ronnie O'Sullivan and looks best placed among the sport's few under-30s to make an impression.

KEELY HODGKINSON (ATHLETICS)

After clinching a trio of high-profile silver medals including world and Olympic silvers behind the brilliant Athing Mu, the 20-year-old 800-metre star is looking to ascend to the top step of the podium in 2023, culminating in the World Championships in Budapest in August.

CAROLINE DUBOIS (BOXING)

Since turning professional in the wake of the Tokyo Olympics, Dubois – sister of heavyweight contender Daniel – has wasted no time, racking up four wins and already starting to call out Irish superstar Katie Taylor. The 21-year-old is set to accelerate further through 2023.

# **SPORTS REVIEW OF 2022: RUGBY UNION**



**RUGBY** union was sport scattered with tales of the unexpected in 2022.

England head coach Eddie Jones and his Wales counterpart Wayne Pivac lost their jobs 24 hours apart, Ireland claimed an Test series against the historic triumph against the All Blacks in New Zealand, while Gallagher Premiership clubs Wasps and Worcester went into

administration.
And the year ended in a waythatno Welsh supporter could realistically have imagined, with Warren Gatland returning as Wales

### **Masterminded**

Gatland's first stint in the role lasted 12 years, during which time Wales won four Six Nations titles, three Grand Slams, reached two World Cup semi-finals and were briefly ranked world rugby's number one team.

team. This time, Gatland has

This time, Gatland has arrived on the back of Wales winning just three Tests from 12 starts between February and November. While Pivac masterminded Wales' first victory over the world champion Springboks in South Africa, he also oversaw damaging home

### By BILL HARE

defeats against Italy and Georgia.

Jones, meanwhile, paid the price for a poor Autumn Nations Series campaign that saw England lose to Argentina and South Africa They won just five

Nations Series campaign that saw England lose to Argentina and South Africa. They won just five games in 2022.

He led England to the World Cup final in Japan three years ago, three Six Nations titles and a Grand Slam in 2016, but the 62-year-old Australian's time in charge ended following a Rugby Football Union review of the autumn campaign.

Jones said: "I'm pleased with much that we have achieved as an England team and I look forward to watching the team's performance in the future.

"Many of the players and I will no doubt keep in touch, and I wish them all well in their future careers."

Steve Borthwick is the man charged with taking over the England reins.

While the World Cup is looming large on the horizon, he is looking for success closer to home.

He said: "Every game

success closer to home.

He said: "Every game matters. Every single game you play for England matters.

"The one that's in my mind is at the start of that

Six Nations.
"We will be using every minute we have to prepare this team as well as we can for the first game of that Six Nations in 47 days' time. Then when we've played that game, we'll focus on the next one, then the one after that and the one after

"We want to just keep

getting better.
"We know the World Cup is not far away, but the focus is on the start of the Six Nations."

Borthwick is bringing a

rugby league legend in Kevin Sinfield with him to be England's new defensive coach.

The chief added: "I'm

delighted Kevin has joined

delighted Kevin has joined us, that's the first step.

"In any of the best teams I have played in and coached, you have a team where the players work so hard for each other, it's

never perfect, they cover for each other, help each other, celebrate with each other and lift each other up when they get knocked down, they're so tight.

"If there's a person that embodies that ethos, it's Kevin Sinfield.
"He's the type of person you reallywant in your environment."

environment."

The international year unquestionably belonged to Ireland, courtesy of toppling New Zealand in Wellington and Dunedin, then backing it up through autumn victories over South Africa and Australia.

Andy Farrell's team also

Andy Farrell's team also rose to become world number one, while flanker Josh van der Flier was named men's world player of the year -

the third Irishman to win that award after legends Keith Wood and Johnny

that award after legends Keith Wood and Johnny Sexton.

Heading towards the 2023 World Cup, Ireland and Six Nations champions France are flying Europe's flag, having shown lots of consistency and quality under the wily direction of Farrell and Les Bleus boss Fabien Galthie.

As crowds returned following the coronavirus pandemic, a feelgood factor reappeared, although there was a sharp reminder of the sport's frailty when Wasps and Worcester went into administration, meaning automatic relegation and the Premiership dropping from 13 to 11 clubs.

Buyers

### **Buyers**

More than 160 people lost their jobs at Wasps, while Worcester's gates were also closed in the most concerning developments for English domestic rugby during the sport's professional era.

professional era.

Administrators are in working tirelessly at both clubs speaking with potential buyers, while several players have found alternative employment since the bad news.

Worcester's England internationals Ollie Lawrence and Ted Hill are

internationals Ollie Lawrence and Ted Hill are now with Bath, while Warriors' British and Irish Lions wing Duhan van der Merwerejoined Edinburgh.

Wasps' Willis brothers — Jack and Tom — joined Toulouse and Bordeaux-Begles, respectively, wing Josh Bassett headed to Harlequins, with Quins also the expected destination for Joe Launchbury following a playing stint in Japan. Rugby also said farewell

Rugby also said farewell to the great Doddie Weir this year.
Weir, who was diagnosed with motor neurons diagnosed

with motor neurone disease in 2016, died at the age of

in . 52. The The former Scotland international, who won 61 caps, used his profile to push for better research to be carried out into MND and appealed for improved care to be given to those afflicted by it.

Scotland head coach Gregor Townsend said: "His fight against MND and his fight to find a cure for the illness has been

fight to find a cure for the illness has been inspirational.
"I know it has inspired so many people around the country to raise a lot of money for the My Name's Doddie Foundation, which has in turn brought together his friends as well as pughy. his friends as well as rugby clubs and communities clubs and communities across Scotland and further afield. "Doddie will have a huge

"Doddie will have a huge legacy as he has made such progress in finding a cure for MND, and breakthroughs are already being made because of his determination."



# PORTS REVIEW OF 2022: A MASSIVE CRICKET YEAR



**RARELY** has English cricket experienced such a huge shift in fortunes as it did in 2022, a year that began in anger and ended in

the glow of revolution.
The men's Test team
has been energised in
barely believable fashion by the inspired leadership of Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes, while their white-ball side are double world champions after adding the T20 crown to the 50-over title.

In the women's game, Heather Knight's side look set for a bold new chapter of their own, with a handful of rising stars emerging and a fresh face behind the

scenes in Jon Lewis.
It was impossible to envisage such a positive landscape when the annual landscape when the annual fireworks erupted over Sydney on January 1, with the Ashes surrendered during a bruising Boxing Day Test.

England scraped a draw at the SCG, succumbed to an all-too-familiar batting collanse in Hohert and

an all-too-familiar batting collapse in Hobart and headed to the departures lounge with a humbling 4-0 defeat and the entire ecosystem of the professional game in the sniper's sights.

The blood-letting which followed was thorough, with head coach Chris

### By GEOFF TRUEMAN

Silverwood and director of cricket Ashley Giles first to be ushered out of the door. Both had seen their tenures marred by the constraints and complications of Covid-19 but neither providents. 19 but neither proved up to the demands of their respective offices.

Joe Root clung on to the

Test captaincy for one more tour of the West Indies, extending his record five-year reign to 64 games but failing to add anything to his legacy other than a final grim chapter in Grenada.

### **All-rounder**

By then moves were well By then moves were well under way to entice Rob Key away from the comfort of the television studios and into Giles' old seat. The former Kent captain left his playing career with unfinished business on the international stage and set about his second chance

international stage and set about his second chance with gusto.

Plain speaking, instinctive, dressed for the clubhouse rather the boardroom and mercifully free of management speak, he proved the perfect frontman for a top-to-toe refit of the England project.

In choosing Stokes as Root's replacement he hardly had to stretch the limits of his imagination—the all-rounder was manifestly the only sensible option—but pairing him

Kiwi maverick McCullum was masterstroke. So too was Key's decision to split the

Key's decision to split the coaching role into two specialist positions, with Matthew Motta neat choice in the white-ball set-up.

Between them, Stokes and McCullum reimagined the limits of the grand old format, emboldened and empowered the dressing room and set about delivering the most entertaining summer of

Test cricket since 2005. Having inherited a side with one win in their last 17 attempts, they claimed seven out of eight in increasingly audacious fashion against high-class opponents New Zealand, India and South Africa.

Chasing down huge fourth-innings totals became a party trick, including a record 378 against India at Edgbaston, and Jonny Bairstow waltzed into career-best

and Jonny Bairstow waltzed into career-best

form with four stunning centuries in the space of

form with four stunning centuries in the space of five innings.

The unfamiliar environs of Pakistan should have represented a tough examination of the new philosophy, but really bold performances in Rawalpindi and Multan merely pushed the envelope even further.

Just weeks earlier England's limited-overs unit had raised the T20 World Cup aloft, forging happier memories on Australian soil as they returned to the scene of their new year nadir.

The blueprint had been thrown up in the air by Eoin Morgan's retirement in June, robbing the team of its chief architect and primary pathfinder.

### **Promise**

Jos Buttler's early days at the helm were totally underwhelming, when placed against the dramatic revamp of the Test side, but he found his footing in the cut-and-thrust of tournament cricket.

By the time he saw off Pakistan at a packed MCG showpiece, Buttler had confirmed his status as England's greatest white-ball cricketer and player-of-the-tournament Sam Curran had cashed in his youthful promise in full. In the women's arena, a runners-up finish in the ODI World Cup was as close

as they came to undoing Australian dominance in

Australian dominance in April.
Nat Sciver's magnificent 148 not out went down as an instant classic in the genre of losing causes and the all-rounder also carried the fight as England bowled out in the semi-finals of cricket's return to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
Sciver's subsequent mental health break offered areminder to the authorities

aremindertotheauthorities about the pastoral care that must come with the rapid expansion of the women's

must come with the rapid expansion of the women's calendar.

While outgoing coach Lisa Keightley was unable to provide instant gratification, she may well have paved the way for future success via the introduction of vibrant young talent such as Alice Capsey, Freya Kemp, Lauren Bell and the bubbly Issy Wong.

The quartet could form the backbone of the team in future years but will also be thrust to the fore in 2023, when bigger crowds and better scheduling place their Ashes series as an equal partner to the men's edition at the height of summer.

With Australia in town it should be another big year for cricket in England and Wales and, after a rollercoaster 12 months, the foundations appear strong.

strong.



# AN historic triumph during the summer ensured it was a year

to remember for England's Lionesses – but the men's team were unable to make it a double as 2022 drew to a close.

Expectation on the women's side was considerable entering July's home European Championship, with the side having been in impressive, unbeaten form since boss Sarina Wiegman, a champion at the previous edition with her native Netherlands, had taken charge the previous September.

They went on to deliver in sensational style, clinching their first ever major trophy, and the first for a senior England team since the men's 1966 World Cup success, after Chloe Kelly's winner secured a 2-1 victory over Germany at Wembley.

at Wembley.

Their surge to the final included

Their surge to the final included an 8-0 group-stage thrashing of Norway, coming from behind to beat Spain 2-1 in a dramatic quarter-final thanks to Georgia Stanway's stunning extra-time strike, and thumping Sweden 4-0 in the semis, with Alessia Russo scoring a back-heeled effort.

It was a journey that captivated the nation – the final had an attendance of 87,192, and a peak BBC One audience of 17.4million – as the popularity of English women's football reached new heights and the likes of Kelly and Golden Boot winner and player of the tournament Beth Mead became household names.

### **Victory**

Gareth Southgate's men looked to add to that success at a winter World Cup in Qatar that had been plagued by controversy, with issues including the treatment of migrant workers and LGBTQ+rights highlighted.

The team were on a six-match winless run, had lost 4-0 at home to Hungary in June and suffered Nations League relegation in September, but Southgate's side, having reached the Euro 2020 final the previous year, believed they could go all the way.

Things started well with a 6-2 victory against Iran, and with a 0-0 draw against the United States followed by 3-0 wins over Wales and, in the last 16, Senegal, and players like 19-year-old Jude Bellingham shining, England headed into the quarter-finals looking like genuine contenders.

But a clash with defending champions France proved the end of the road as they were beaten 2-1, captain Harry Kane equalising

of the road as they were beaten 2-1, captain Harry Kane equalising



### FOOTBALL in 2022

with a penalty that saw him become his country's joint-highest scorer, then missing the chance to level again with another spot-kick late on, sending it over the bar. At both tournaments England were joined in their group by another home nation that exited at that stage. Wales opened their first World Cup campaign in 64 years with a 1-1 draw with the USA before losing to Iran 2-0 and then to England.

USA before losing to Iran 2-0 and then to England.

Northern Ireland registered their first tournament goal at the Women's Euros, scored by Julie Nelson, but were unable to claim a point, beaten 4-1 by Norway, 2-0 by Austria and 5-0 by the hosts.

On the club scene, Pep Guardiola's Manchester City claimed the Premier League title for a fourth time in five years, finishing a point ahead of a Liverpool outfit who had been in the hunt for a quadruple.

Infishing a point anead of a Liverpool outfit who had been in the hunt for a quadruple.
Having beaten Chelsea in the FA Cup and Carabao Cup finals, Jurgen Klopp's Reds had to settle for runners-up finishes in the league and Champions League, losing 1-0 to Real Madrid.
A turbulent year for Chelsea, who finished third, saw them go through a change of ownership, with American tycoon Todd Boehly buying the club from Roman Abramovich in May, in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and then management as Thomas Tuchel was sacked in September and replaced by Graham Potter.

### Sacking

Sacking

There was also big change at Manchester United following their sixth-placed finish, with Erik ten Hag brought in as boss over the summer after Ralf Rangnick's interim spell, and the club in November parting ways with Cristiano Ronaldo by mutual agreement, shortly after the Portugal starhad fiercely criticised them in a TV interview.

Antonio Conte's Spurs secured the other Champions League berth at the end of 2021-22, while the opening months of this season have seen Mikel Arteta's Arsenal lead the Premier League table, Eddie Howe's Newcastle up in the top four, and summer signing Erling Haaland make a scintillating start to life at Manchester City, scoring 23 goals in 18 appearances in all competitions.

In Scotland, Ange Postecoglou oversaw Celtic reclaiming the league title from Rangers, who reached the Europa League final under Giovanni van Bronckhorst, losing on penalties to Eintracht Frankfurt, before sacking the Dutchman last month and naming Michael Beale his successor.



1. In which English city was tennis player Katie Boulter born?

2. How many goals has midfielder Jill Scott scored in her 16-year England career?

3. Which sprinter became Wales' first 100m UK champion in more than 50 years? 4. What is the nickname of American

former mixed martial artist Ronda Rousey? 5. How many Formula One world titles did Brazilian driver Nelson Piquet win?

6. Which tier one side have never reached the quarter-finals of rugby union's World Cup? 7. Which Scottish club

has played in two English FA Cup finals? 8. Who is the captain of the England's men's white-ball cricket team?

9. Who became the first female jockey in Britain to win a grade one horse race? 10. Which Scottish golf course features the famous 'Postage Stamp' hole?

11. At which club did Gareth Bale make his senior debut? 12. In which year did

Roger Federer win his first Wimbledon singles title - 2000, 2002 or 2003? 13. Catalans Dragons

were defeated by which team in the Wheelchair Challenge Cup final? 114. Which England bowler topped of the women's ICC one-day and T20 international bowling rankings? 15. In which US city would you find the following sports teams: Lions, Pistons, Tigers and Red Wings? 16. Which Women's Super League club does Sweden defender

Magdalena Eriksson play for? 17. In golf, where was the 2022 women's British Open be held? 18. How many F1

championships did Michael Schumacher win during his career? 19. Who scored the drop-goal that secured the 2022 Gallagher Premiership title for Leicester Tigers?

20. Which county does wicketkeeper/batter Sam Billings play for?

27; 3. Jenemiah Star; 4. Govaly, 5. Three; 6. Irabiy; 7. Gueen's Park; 8. Jos Buttler; 9. Lizzie Kelly; 10. Goval Troon; 11. Goval Troon; 12. 2003; 72. 2003; 73. Goval Troon; 14. Goval Troon; 15. Goval Troon; 1 ANSWERS: 1. Leicester; 2. 27; 3. Jeremiah Azu; 4.

# RECOUNT ALL THE UPS AND DOWN

IT HAS been another astonishing year of sporting drama, featuring triumphs for England's footballers and the men's cricketers, dramatic schism in men's professional golfand Novak Djokovic

being deported from Australia. Here, Midweek Sport looks back on five of the best and worst sporting moments of

### **BEST MOMENTS**

### LIONESSES WIN EUROS

England's Euro 2022 dream became reality after Chloe Kelly's extra-time finish saw the Lionesses beat Germany 2-1 and secure the first major trophy in their history in front of a record-breaking crowd at Wembley. Kelly prodded past Merle Frohms in the 110th minute to restore the hosts' lead after fellow substitute Ella Toone's wonderful lobbed opener just after the hour mark.

wonderful lobbed opener just and smark.
Eight-time champions Germany equalised with 11 minutes of normal time remaining through Lina Magull and the game looked on course for a penalty shootout until Kelly secured a first major trophy for a senior England side since the men's 1966 World Cup triumph over West Germany.

1966 World Cup triumph over West Germany.

ENGLAND WIN 720 WORLD CUP

Ben Stokes once again delivered under pressure as England were crowned T20 World Cup champions with a nail-biting five-wicket win over Pakistan at the MCG. On a bowler-friendly pitch, Stokes anchored a chase of 138 with an over to ener with a chase of 138 with an over to spare with 52 not out from 49 balls as England became

the first men's side to hold ODI and T20 World Cups simultaneously. Stokes banished memories of the 2016 final against the West Indies — when he was clattered for four successive sixes in the final over—retaining his composure despite the tricky surface to steer England home. Sam Curran had earlier taken three for 12 and there were two wickets apiece for Adil Rashid and Chris Jordan to restrict Pakistan to 137 for eight.

WINTER OLYMPICS CURLING GOLD AND SILVER

A day after Great Britain's men had to settle for silver, Eve Muirhead led the women's team to Olympic gold in Beijing. Twenty years after Rhona Martin slid her finalstonedownin Salt Lake City, Muirhead and team-mates Vicky Wright, Jennifer Dodds, Hailey Duff and alternate Mili Smith swept to an emphatic 10-3 win over Japan.

A pair of positive Covid tests prior to the final gualifiers almost derailed

a massiv

e ved

A pair of positive Covid tests prior to the final qualifiers final qualifiers almost derailed preparations, and their stuttering progress through the round-robin phase left them on the brink of elimination. But three days after they were forced to rely on two other results and a 10cm advantage in the pre-match draw shot challenge simply to stay in the tournament, Muirhead led her team to glory.

### MATT FITZPATRICK WINS US OPEN

Anoth after narrowly missing out on a play-off for the US PGA Championship, Matt Fitzpatrick made certain of his maiden major title and a historic double in the 122nd US Open at Brookline. Fitzpatrick carded a closing 68 to finish a shot ahead of Will Zalatoris and Scottie Scheffler, joining 18-time major winner Jack Nicklaus as the only players to win the US Amateur

and US Open on the same course. Nicklaus did so at Pebble Beach in 1961 and 1972, while Fitzpatrick won the US Amateur at Brookline in 2013, the same year Justin Rose became the last Englishman to win the US Open at Merion.

### RONNIE O'SULLIVAN WINS SEVENTH

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN WINS SEVENTH

WORLD SNOOKER TITLE

An emotional Ronnie O'Sullivan shrugged off a stirring fightback from Judd Trump to claim a record-equalling seventh World Snooker title at the Crucible. O'Sullivan had seen a seven-frame overnight lead reduced to three by Trump in the afternoon session before recovering to win 18-13. O'Sullivan shared a lingering embrace lasting more than a minute with Trump after getting over the line with a break of 83, before also greeting his children who ran into the arena to share his moment. With victory the 46-year-old matched Stephen Hendry's modern day record and surpassed Ray Reardon to become the oldest world champion in history.

### WORST MOMENTS

DJOKOVIC DEPORTED

The year began with an The year began with an extraordinary story in Melbourne, where Novak Djokovic arrived to begin his bid for a 10th Australian Open title only to end up being deported from the country. Djokovic believed hehadthecorrectpaperwork to enter the country despite. to enter the country despite not having been vaccinated

against Covid-19, but was detained at the airport and taken to an immigration hotel. Immigration minister Alex Hawke cancelled Djokovic's visa on the notion that the Serbian's presence in the country could stoke anti-vaccination sentiment, making him a danger to public health, as well as the potential for civil unrest. Djokovic took his case to the Federal Court of Australia but failed to get the decision overturned.

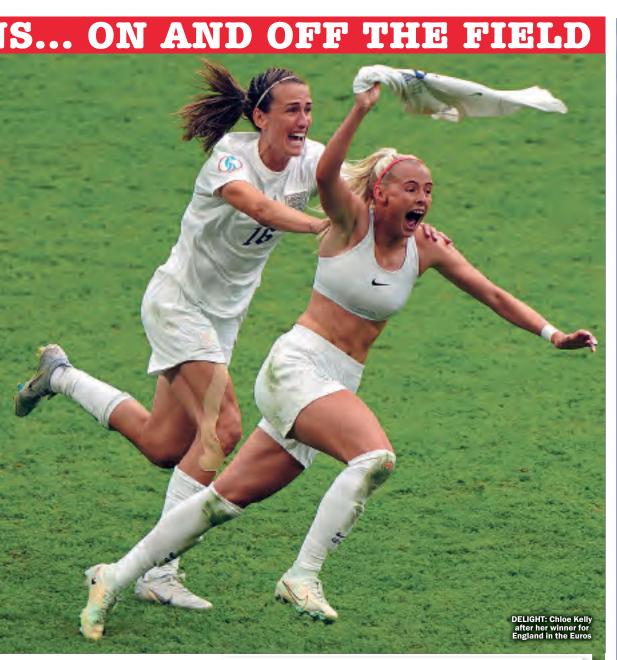
KAMILA VALIEVA SAGA

The Winter Olympics were overshadowed by the saga surrounding 15-year-old skater Kamila Valieva, who had been the focus of extraordinary attention since her positive drugs test was revealed the day after she

Helped Russia win the team event.
Her automatic provisional suspension
was lifted by the Russian Anti-Doping

was lifted by the Russian Anti-Doping Agency, whose decision was effectively upheld by CAS despite an appeal led by the International Testing Agency. Nine days after being notified of the failed test, Valieva fell twice and made a series of corners in the women's of errors in the women's free skate to fall from first place to fourth. That at least meant the medal at least meant the medal ceremony could take place, the International Olympic Committee having previously said it would be delayed pending the result of the investigation into Valieva's positive test should she finish in the ten three. top three.





### LIV GOLF CREATES HUGE

### SCHISM IN MEN'S GOLF

LIV Golf only staged its first event in June, but the Saudi-funded breakaway instantly caused an unprecedented schism in the men's professional game. Players competing in the inaugural event were instantly banned by the PGA Tour and it was not long before lawsuits began flying, with Ian Poulter, Adrian Otaegui and Justin Harding getting their suspensions from the DP World Tour put on hold to play in the Scottish Open.

Open.

A week later Cameron Smith won the Open and reacted angrily in his winner's press conference to being asked about a possible move to LIV, only to duly join the following month. Henrik Stenson also jumped ship and was stripped of the Ryder Cup captaincy, while Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods have called for LIV CEO Greg Norman to step down and for lawsuits to be dropped in order to negotiate some sort of settlement.

ARMBANDS ROW AT WORLD CUP
The early stages of the World Cup in Qatar were dominated by off-field issues.

The early stages of the World Cup in Qatar were dominated by off-field issues, with a last-minute ban on alcohol sales at stadiums and seven European nations, including England and Wales, abandoning plans to wear a rainbow-coloured armband as part of an anti-discrimination campaign in Qatar after FIFA threatened them with sporting sanctions.

sanctions.
FA chief executive Mark Bullingham said the threatened disciplinary action was "unlimited" and that five FIFA officials had given the England camp just 10 minutes' notice of the possible



sanctions ahead of their opening group game against Iran.

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL ALMOST

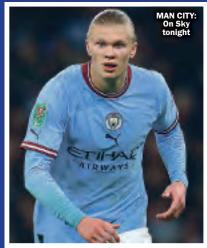
RESULTS IN TRACEDY

Losing to Real Madrid for the second time in five years was hugely disappointing for Liverpool fans, but a genuine tragedy almost occurred as fans attempted to get into the Stade de France.

France.
Supporters were directed through an underpass in which police had parked

vans to restrict the flow further and with local youths climbing the fence to gain entry, a decision was taken to temporarily close entry gates before riot police were deployed to pepper spray and tear gas

fans.
UEFA blamed the delay on late arrival of fans and thousands of fake tickets, claims it later retracted. An independent inquiry later found Liverpool supporters were subjected to treatment that "constituted criminal assault".



■F00TBALL: Premier League, Leeds v Manchester City — Amazon Prime 2000; cinch Premiership, Hibernian v Cettic
— Sky Sports Football 1930;
Ligue 1, Troyes v Nantes — BT
Sport 1 1400, Auxerre v Monaco — BT Sport 1 1600, Clermont Foot v Lille — BT Sport 1 1800. Brest v Lyon — BT Sport 4, Paris St Germain v Strasbourg — BT Sport 1 2000. ■CRICKET: First Test, Pakistan v New Zealand — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Cricket 0500; Second Test, Australia v South Africa — BT Sport 2 2330.

■DARTS: World Championship

— Sky Sports Arena and Sky
Sports Main Event 1230 and 1900

■HORSE RACING: Leopardstown and Leicester – ITV4 1240.

### THURSDAY

■F00TBALL: Championship, QPR v Luton — Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1730, Blackpool v
Sheffield United — Sky Sports
Football 2000; Ligue 1, Lorient
v Montpellier — BT Sport 1
1600, Reims v Rennes — BT Sport 1 1800, Nice v Lens — BT Sport 4 2000, Marseille v Toulouse — BT Sport 1 2000. CRICKET: First Test, Pakistan v New Zealand — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Cricket 0500; Second Test, Australia v South Africa – BT

Sport 2 2330.

■DARTS: World Championship Sky Sports Arena and Main Event 1230 and 1900. ■HORSE RACING

Leopardstown and Leicester ■GRIDIRON: NEL Tennessee Titans v Dallas Cowboys – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports NFL 0000 (Fri).

■F00TBALL: Premier League, Liverpool v Leicester — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1900; ymru Premier, Newtown v berystwyth – S4C 1725. Aberystwyth — S4C 1725. ■RUGBY UNION: Premiership, Sale v Leicester – BT Sport 1 1900; URC, Edinburgh v Glasgow – Viaplay Sports 1830.

CRICKET: First Test, Pakistan v New Zealand — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Cricket 0500. ■DARTS: World Championship - Sky Sports Arena and Sky

Sports Main Event 1230 and 1900. ■BASKETBALL: NBA, Atlanta

Hawks v Los Angeles Lakers – Sky Sports Main Event 0030 (Sat).

### SATURDAY

■F00TBALL: Premier League, Wolves v Manchester United – BT Sport 1 1130, Brighton v

BT Sport 1 1130. Brighton v
Arsenal — Sky Sports Main
Event and Sky Sports Premier
League 1700.

RUGGBY UNION: Premiership:
Saracens v Exeter — BT Sport 2
1430: URC, Zebre v Benetton —
Viaplay Sports 1225. Sharks v
Bulls — Viaplay Sports 1440.
Stormers v Lions — Viaplay
Sports 1655.

■CRICKET: First Test, Pakistan v New Zealand — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Cricket 0500

■HORSE RACING: Newbury,
Warwick and Lingfield — ITV4 1300

■BASKETBALL: NBA, Indiana Pacers v Los Angeles Clippers — Sky Sports Main Event 2030, Chicago Bulls v Cleveland Cavaliers — Sky Sports Main Event 0000 (Sun).

### SUNDAY

FOOTBALL: Premier League, Tottenham v Aston Villa — Sky Sports Premier League 1300, Sky Sports Main Event 1400, Nottingham Forest v Chelsea — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1600; Championship, Blackburn v Cardiff — Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1130; Ligue 1, Monaco v Brest — BT Sport 2 1400, Lyon v Clermont Foot — BT Sport 2 1600, Lens v Paris St. Germain

1600. Lens v Paris St. Germain

BT Sport 1 1930.

■RUGBY UNION. Premiership.
Northampton v Harlequins — BT
Sport 1 1400. URC. Cardiff v
Spreys — BBC Two Wales
1445. Viaplay Sports 1455.
Scarlets v Dragons — S4C 1700.
Viaplay Sports 1710. Leinster v
Connacht — Viaplay Sports
1710. Ulster v Munster —
Viaplay Sports 1710.

Viaplay Sports 1710. ■DARTS: World Championship — Wartis: World Championsh
— Sky Sports Arena and Sky
Sports Main Event 1230 and
1900.

■HORSE RACING: Cheltenham

■ IN Tregions 1300.
■ GRIDIRON: NFL, game TBD — Sky Sports NFL 1700. game TBD — Sky Sports NFL 2115, game TBD 2330, Los Angeles Chargers v Los Angeles Rams Sky Sports Main Event, Sky Sports NFL 0110 (Mon).



December 28, 2022 £1.60 (on sale Wed Dec 28 & Thur Dec 29)

SPORTS
REVIEW
OF A BIG
YEAR SHOOT



